Marvel
William Heinemann Ltd. 1994
3rd June '94
No173 65p

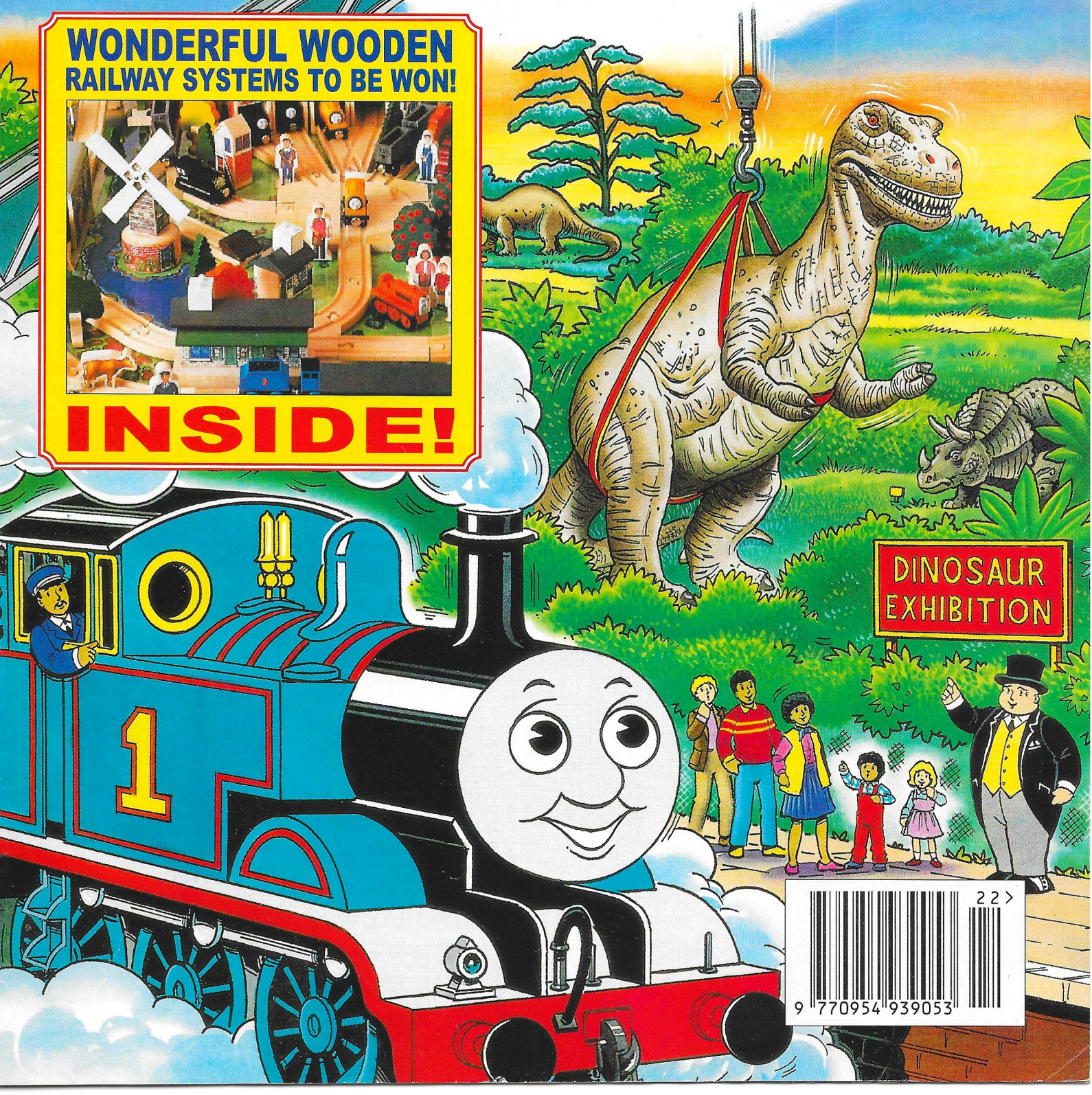
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

EXCITING STORIES INSIDE!

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

WONDERFUL WOODEN RAILWAY SYSTEMS TO BE WON!

INSIDE!



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NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! Percy the small Saddletank Engine has had many wonderful stories to tell from his travels around the Island of Sodor. But what has happened to Percy in our first story and why is Thomas frightened of what he has seen? In our second story, Thomas's faithful carriage, Annie, has to leave for the mainland exhibition. But, how much danger will the sea journey have in store? *Peep! Peep!*

How to obtain your Fat Controller's Card!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card** send one red, yellow and blue token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: **The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.**

Name .....

Address .....

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THOMAS TOKEN

THIS ISSUE'S COMPETITION!

You could be one of five lucky prize winners in this issue of ***Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.*** We are offering a superb range of **Thomas the Tank Engine Wooden Railway Systems** (*Instant Systems Set 4* featured above).

BENJAMIN TOYS LIMITED

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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

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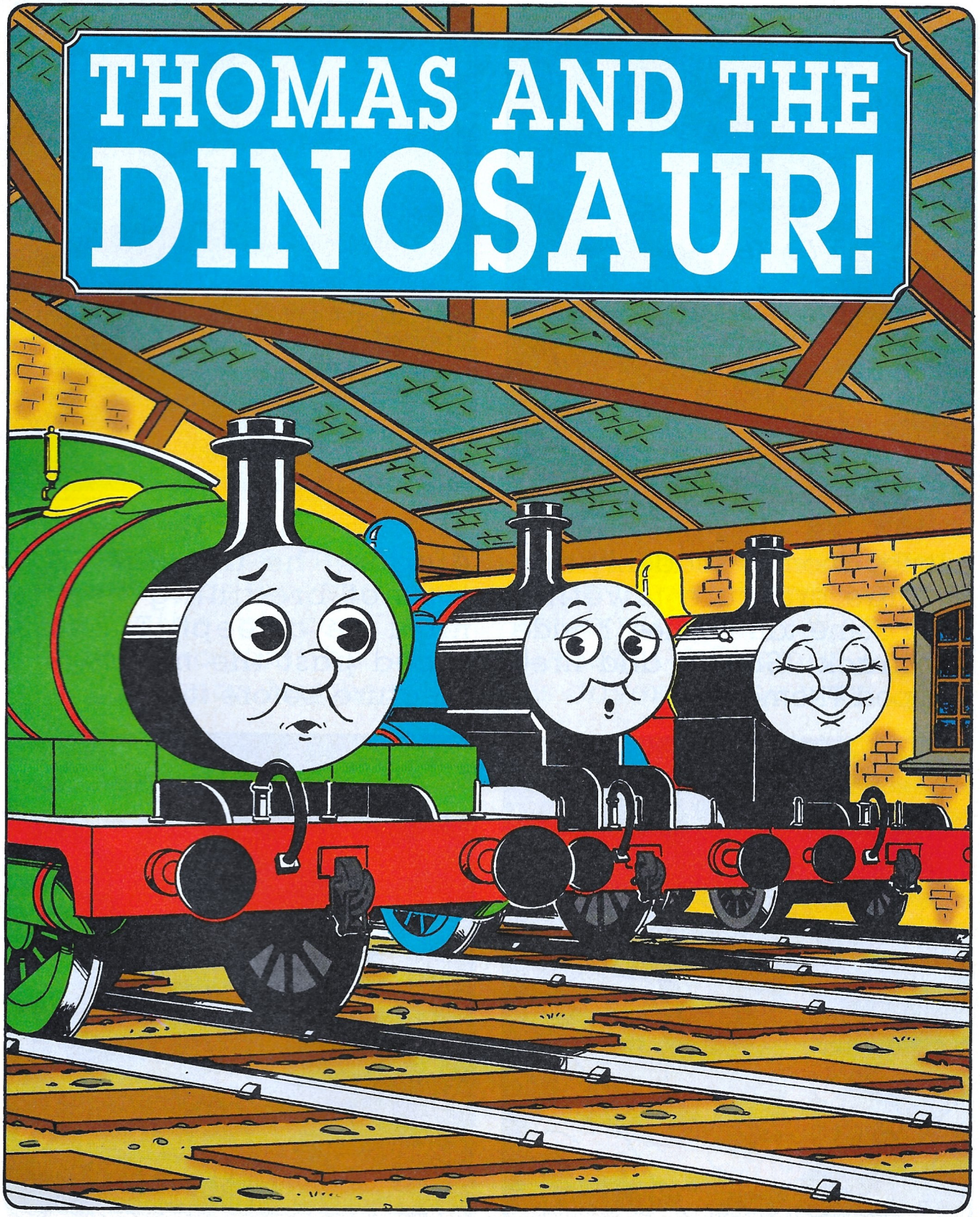
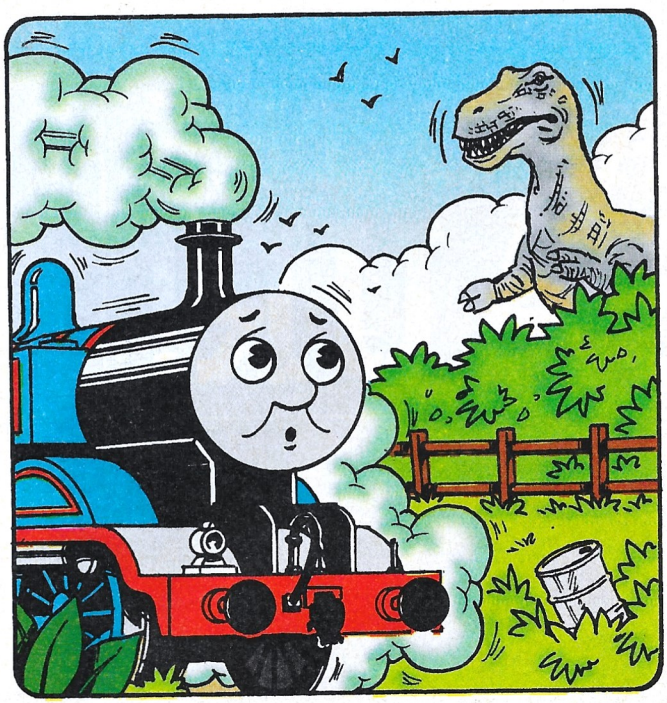
THOMAS AND THE DINOSAUR!

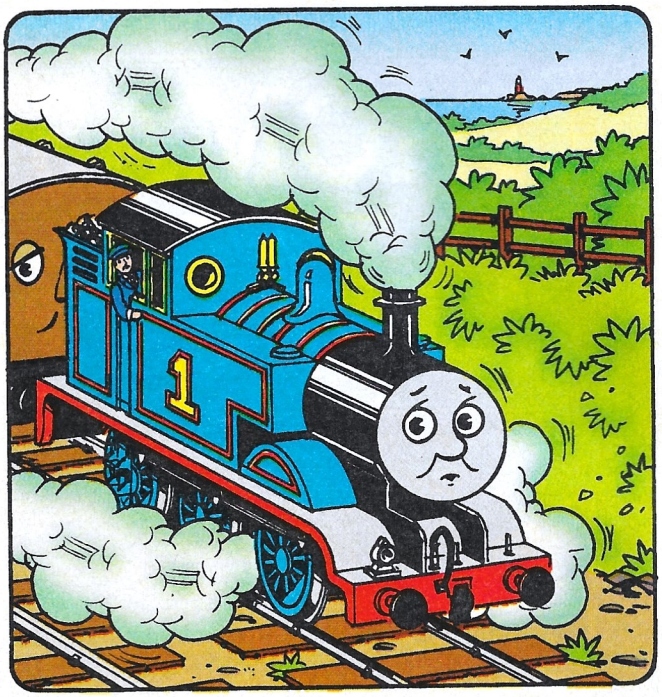


1. In the engine shed one night, Percy could not get to sleep. "I saw a dragon today, Thomas," he said anxiously. "They breathe fire and eat engines!"

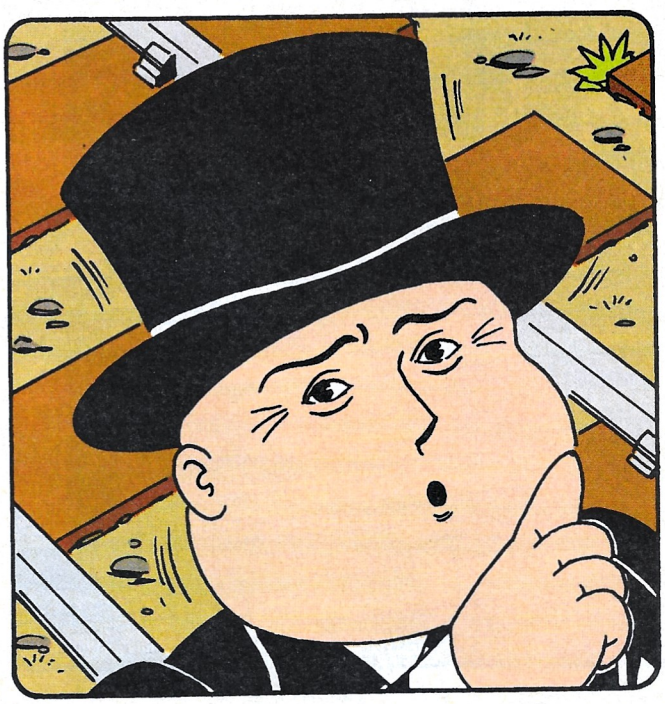
2. At last, Percy became so tired he dozed off. "Perhaps I dreamt I saw a dragon!" he said, next morning as Thomas set off with Annie and Clarabel.



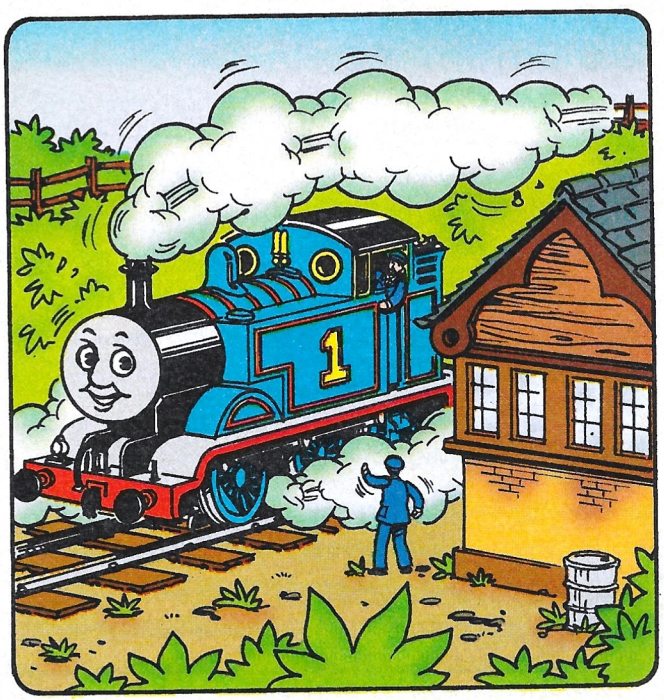
3. As he steamed busily along, Thomas suddenly saw a huge creature towering over some tall bushes, beside the track. "Smoke and fire!" gasped Thomas.



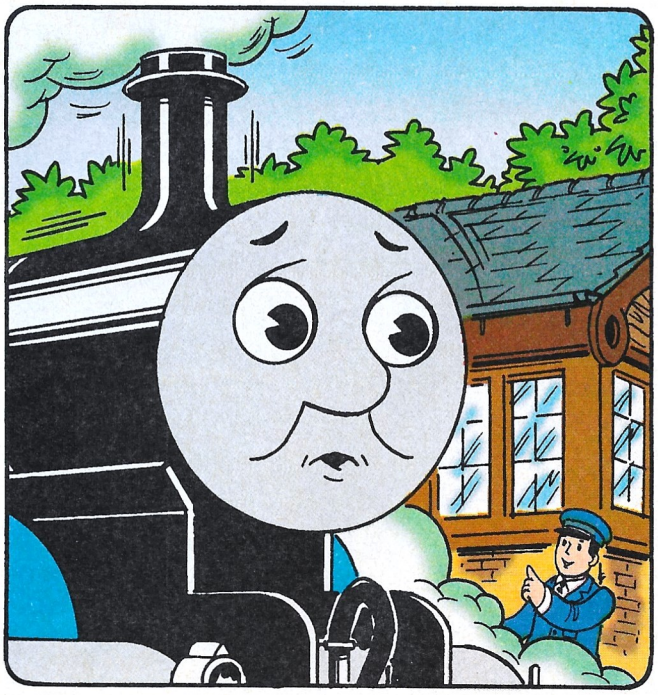
4. "That must be Percy's dragon," he thought. "But it's not breathing fire! It must be asleep!" Thomas raced past the monstrous creature before it woke.



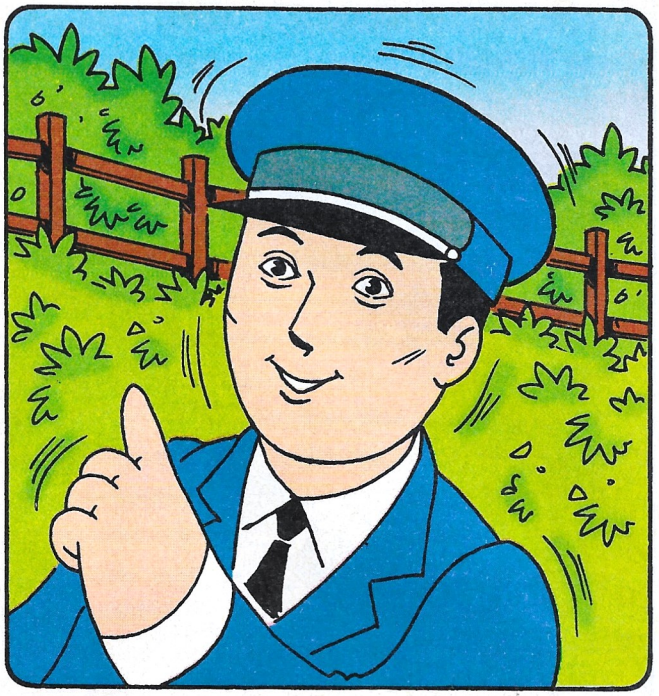
5. At the next station, the Fat Controller was waiting for Thomas. "It's an emergency!" he said. "You're to pull a flat truck to the junction!"



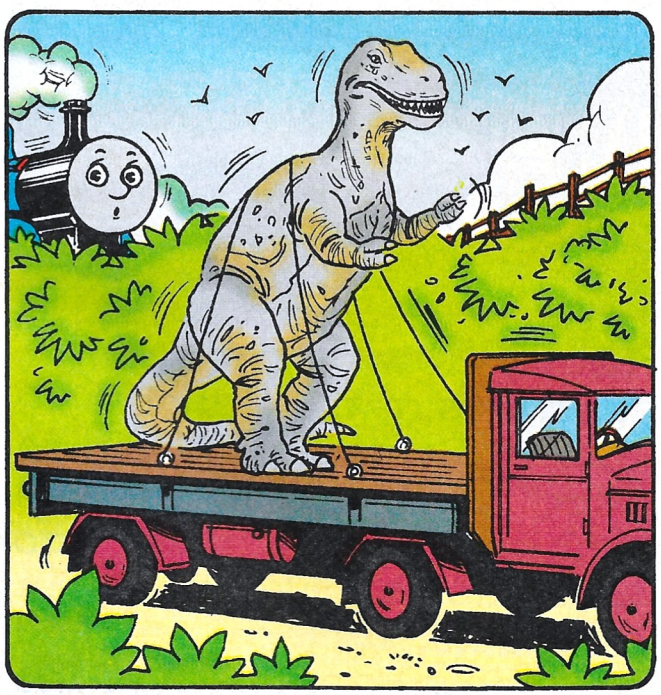
6. Leaving Annie and Clarabel in a siding, Thomas was coupled to a flat truck. Then he raced on to the junction where a signalman called to him.



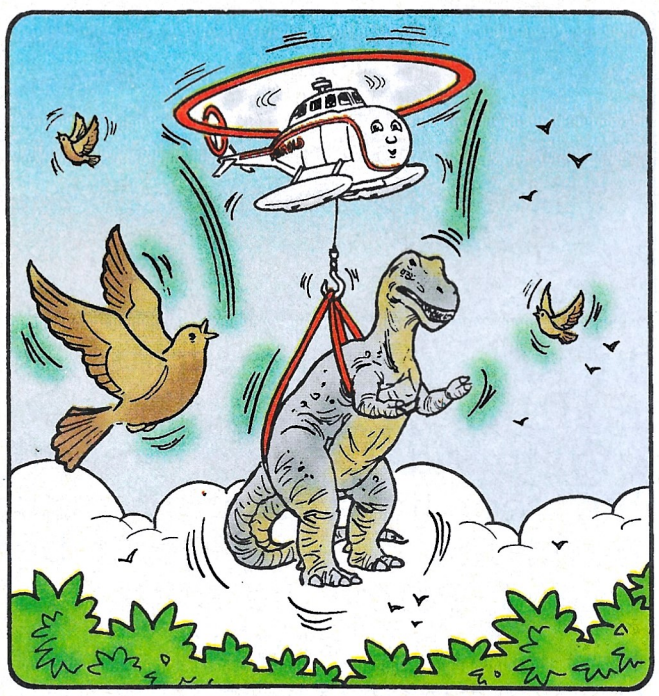
7. When he told Thomas where to take the truck next, Thomas was shocked. "That's the place I saw Percy's dragon!" he said. The signalman laughed.



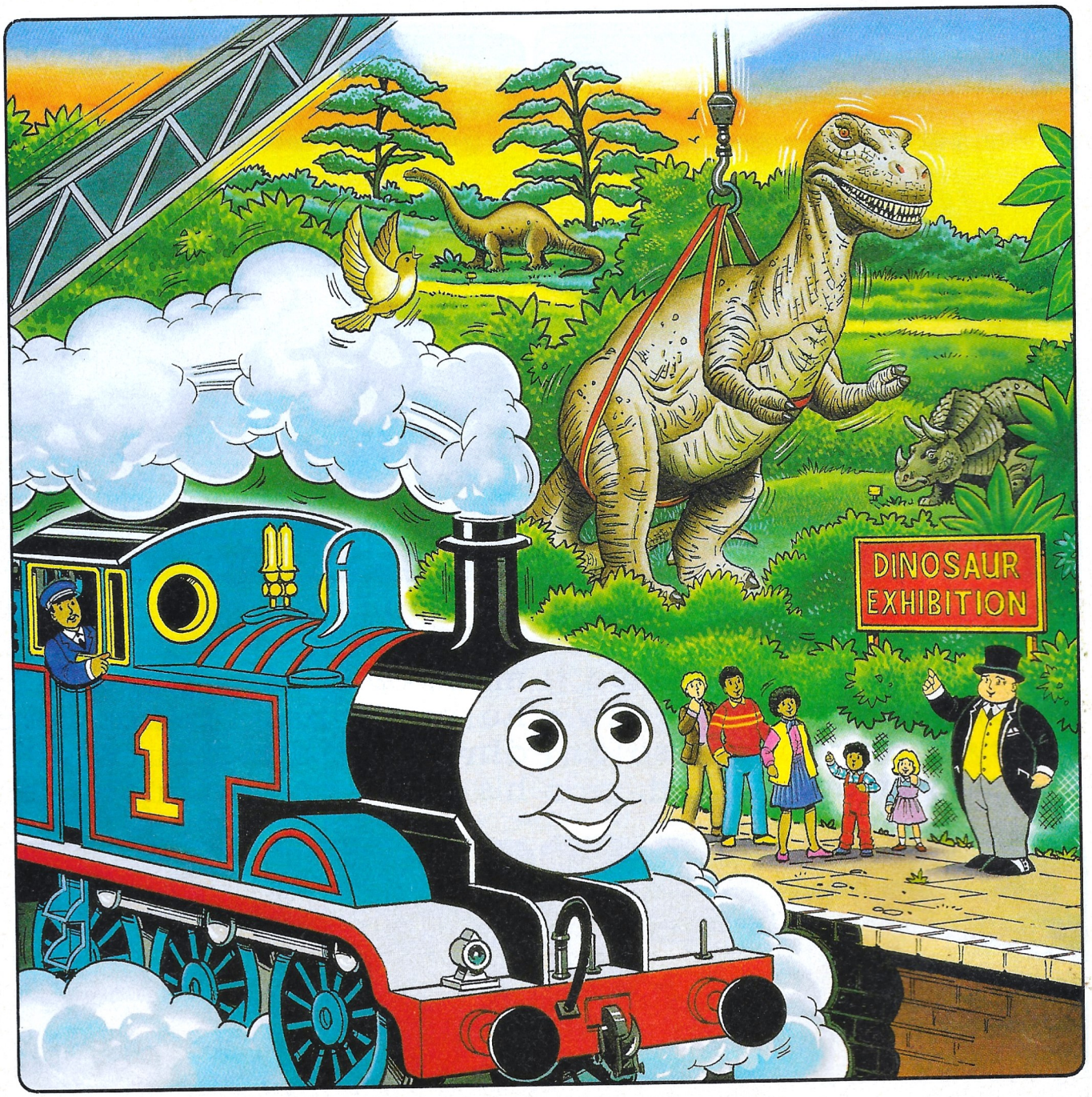
8. "It's not a dragon but a huge model dinosaur, made of wood and plaster!" he explained. "What's a dinosaur?" Thomas asked his driver, on the way.



9. "They are animals who lived a very long time ago," replied the driver. "The model is to be shown in an exhibition. But the lorry carrying it broke down!".



10. When Thomas arrived, Harold the Helicopter was there to lift the model on to the truck. While Thomas puffed back to the station, children waved excitedly!



11. At a junction, Thomas met Percy, who looked so frightened Thomas thought the poor little engine would burst his boiler. "Don't be scared, Percy!" he said. "I've tamed your engine-eating dragon! It was this dinosaur you saw! I'll explain all about it later!" As Thomas rolled past, Percy was relieved.

12. By now, a breakdown train was at the station with the Fat Controller. Workmen used its crane to lift the dinosaur off the truck, into an exhibition site with other dinosaurs. Thomas watched as a crowd gathered for the grand opening. "Three cheers for Thomas!" he proudly heard the Fat Controller call.

THE END!

In our next issue: Percy and the yachts!

Kellogg's® COCO POPS® CRISP CHOCOLATEY BUBBLES

ALIENS VISIT THE KELLOGG'S FACTORY

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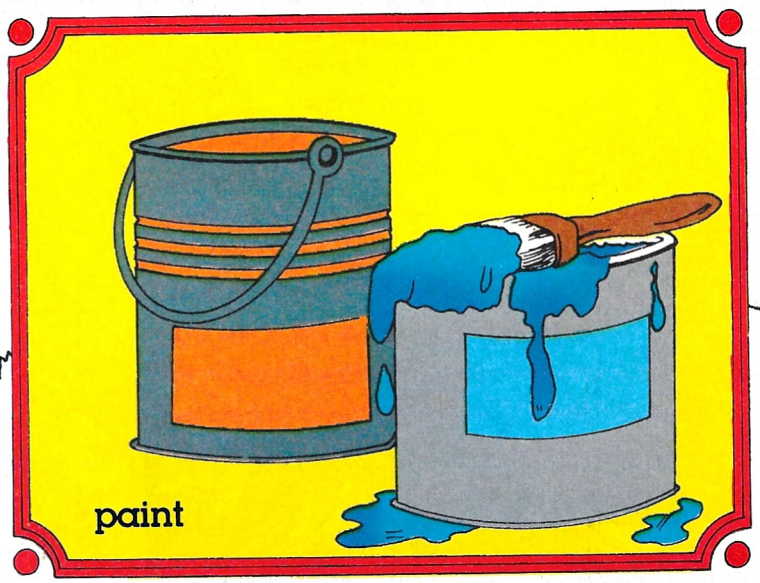
Kellogg's Coco Pops now taste even more chocolatey!!

Bright Diesel!

None of the engines liked working with Diesel. He was bad-tempered and seemed to enjoy being nasty. When Percy and Oliver heard Diesel was to help them shunt coal trucks in the Main Station yard, they grumbled to Thomas.

"It's all right for you," said Percy. "You won't have to put up with Diesel's bullying all day!"

"I have to collect a shipment of paint from the Big Harbour," replied Thomas, "but I'll be back this afternoon."



paint

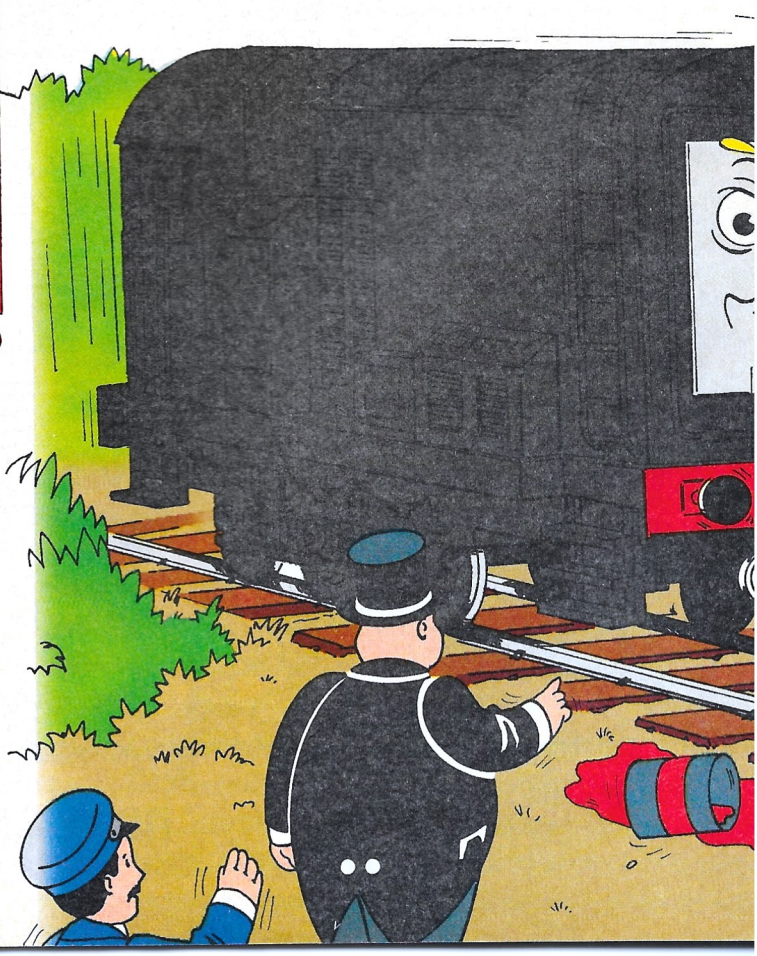
Before he left, Thomas was coupled to some trucks. Diesel arrived and suddenly rolled up behind them, going much too fast.

"Out of my way! Let a modern engine get to work!" called Diesel, in his oily voice. He stopped sharply but not before he had deliberately bumped Thomas's trucks. They rattled and clattered, making Thomas jump.

"I'm going, Diesel," said Thomas, crossly. "There's no need to be rude!" Thomas's trucks were very pleased to be on their way, too. For once, they weren't the least bit troublesome and behaved perfectly.

Meanwhile, Diesel turned his attention to Percy. While Percy shunted some trucks past the engine shed, Diesel appeared like a big, dark shadow from behind it. He had been hiding there. Whoosh! He rushed out across a junction, right in front of Percy.

"Look out, you old slow-buffers!" shouted Diesel, unkindly. Percy's driver had to brake hard and Percy



squealed to a halt, causing his rocking trucks to spill some coal.

"What a mess! What a mess!" they cried.

"It's your fault, Diesel!" fumed Percy. "You'll cause an accident!"

"Rubbish! You should have seen me coming!" growled Diesel. Soon he played the same trick on Oliver. When Thomas returned, Diesel waited unseen on a loop-line, behind a storage shed. Then he sped up behind Thomas again. Percy saw Diesel and shouted a warning, but too late.

"Surprise! Surprise!" called Diesel, giving Thomas's trucks a hard shove.

Next moment, a big tin of paint rolled off the last truck. It dropped on to Diesel and burst open. He was covered in yellow paint.

"Gah!" he spluttered. "Wipe it off! Someone get help! Quickly!"

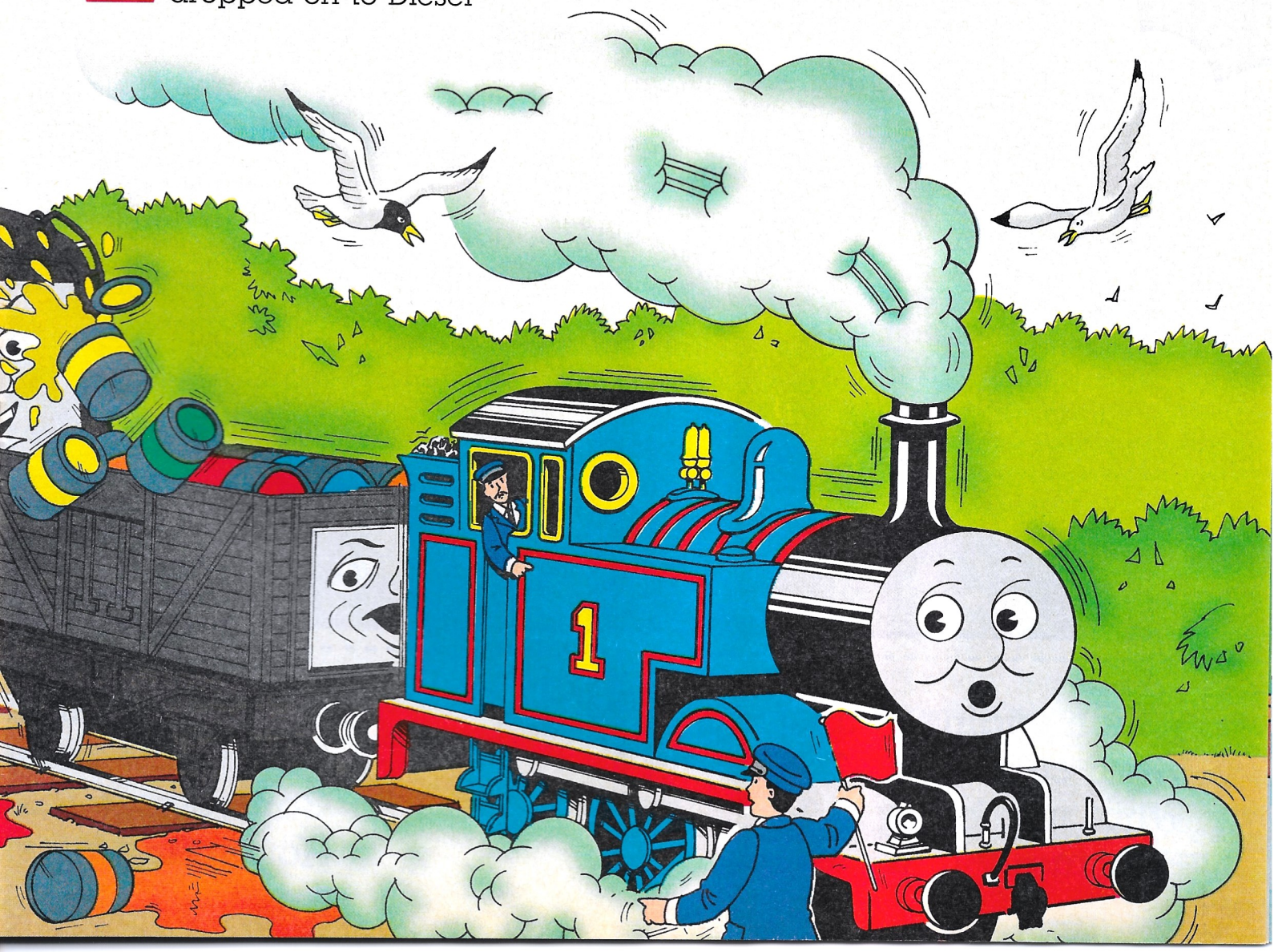
"We only go slowly, Diesel, remember?" teased Percy.

When the Fat Controller saw what had happened, he frowned. The paint was already drying.

"You'll just have to work like that until I can spare you to be cleaned up, Diesel!" he said. Diesel was furious. The trucks sniggered while Percy, Oliver and Thomas hoped that Diesel had learned a lesson.

"You're such a bright Diesel now, at least we'll see you coming," chuckled Thomas.

THE END!



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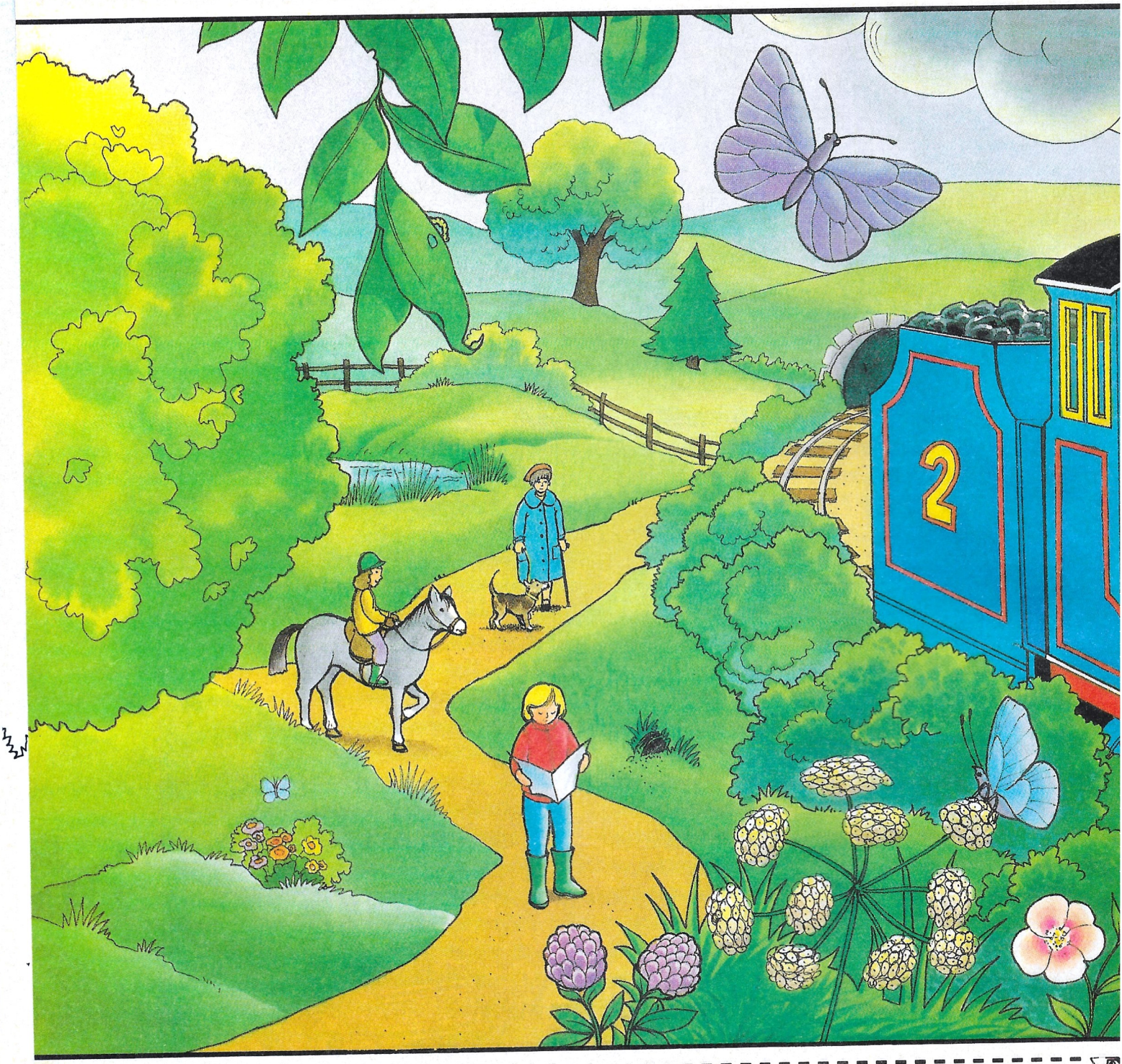

Which engine can you see?
What colour is he?
What number is he?
How many birds can you see?

How many bu
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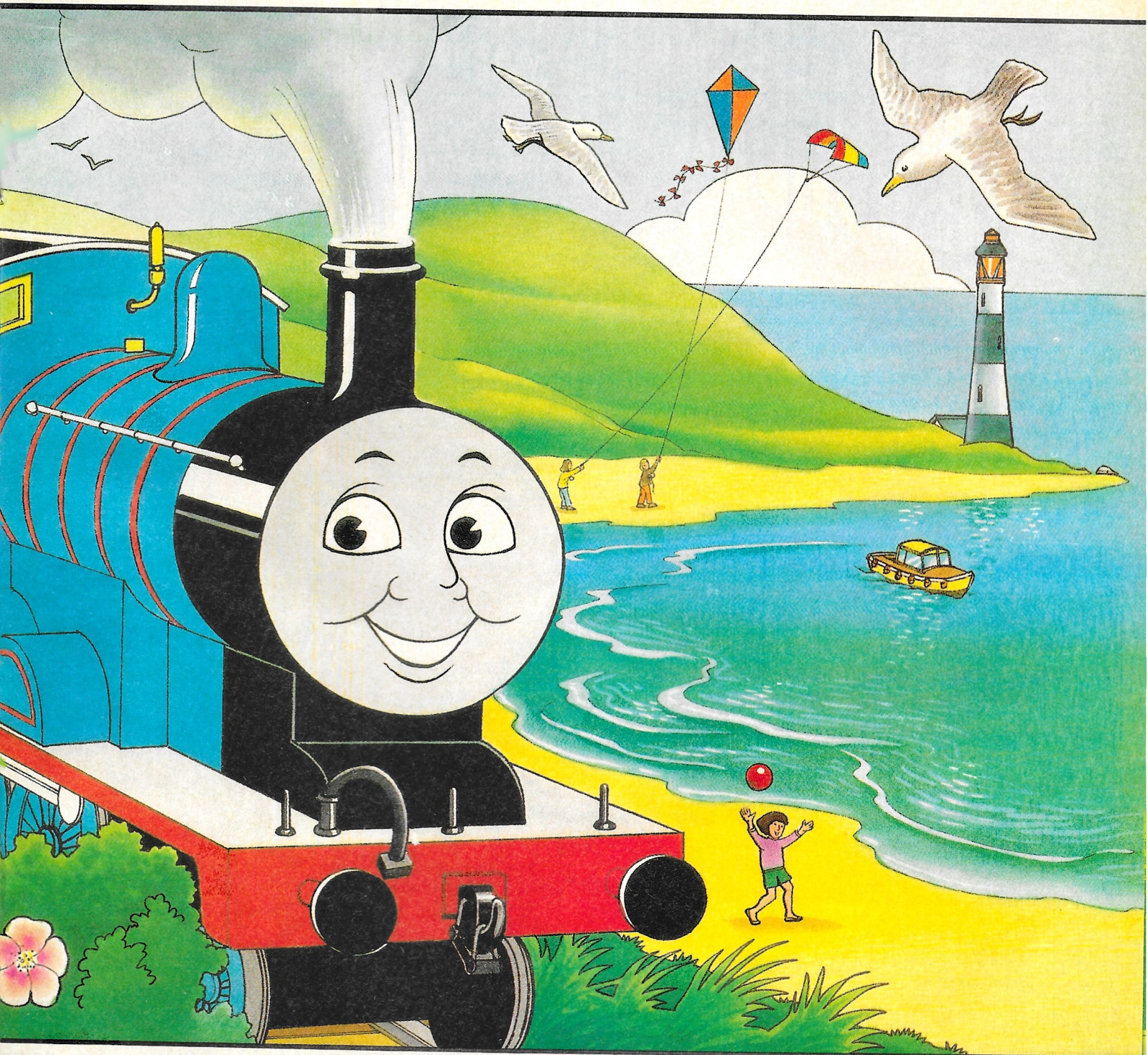

lies can you count?
rekker!
ghthouse?
re being flown?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: The yacht race!

BENJAMIN
TOYS LIMITED

WIN A WONDERFUL RAILWAY SYSTEM!

***The Thomas the Tank Wooden Railway System* is compatible with all other brands of wooden railways (all tracks are interchangeable).**

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1st prize winners receive the ***Complete Island of Sodor Playboard***. This exciting playcentre includes over 100 pieces all mounted on special solid wood and fully decorated baseboard. *Retail value £299.00.*

2nd prize winners receive **Instant Systems Set 4**, containing 50 pieces as illustrated, including Playmat as shown (boxed). *Retail value £110.00.*

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4th prize winners receive **Instant Systems Set 2**, a starter set with 22 pieces as illustrated except for the playmat which is available separately (boxed). *Retail value £57.50.*

5th prize winners receive **Instant System Set 1** containing all 14 pieces as illustrated, except for the Playmat, which is available separately (boxed). *Retail value £29.99.*

The **Thomas the Tank Wooden Railway System** is available in all good independent toy shops and many of the leading major toy retailers.

How to enter: We would like you to draw and paint your very own engine character which could be used specially on the Fat Controller's railway. Then think of a name for **him** or **her**. You must include your name, age and address on your entry! Send your entries to ***Thomas/ Benjamin Toys Competition, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2R 3DX*** by **June 17th 1994.**

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....

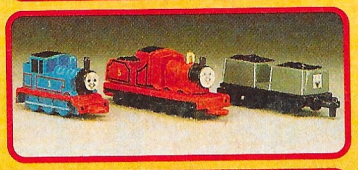
.....

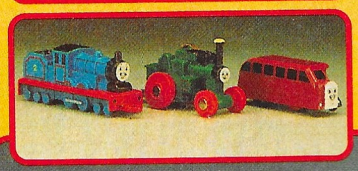
..... Age.....

Competition Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees of Marvel Comics Ltd and Benjamin Toys. All entries will be judged with close attention to the entrant's age. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

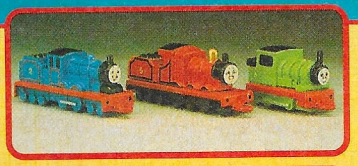
JOIN THE DOTS!

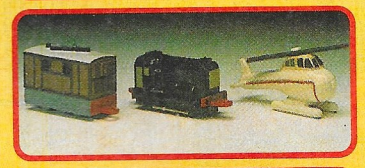
A mystery poster went up in May,
'A new exhibition opens today!'
Stephen and Bridget say, 'What can it be?'
Join the dots and you will see!





THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™





QUANTITY	ITEM	CODE	PRICE	TOTAL
	Thomas with Annie & Clarabel	4029	£2.99	
	James, Thomas & Trucks	4030	£2.99	
	Edward, Bertie & Trevor	4033	£2.99	
	Edward, James & Percy	4034	£2.99	
	Toby, Diesel & Harold	4498	£2.99	
	Bill, Ben & Duck	4464	£2.99	
	Corner Station with Thomas	4021	£3.99	
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	Corner Crossing with Bertie	4036	£3.99	
	Corner Signal Box with James	4024	£3.99	
	Joining Water Straight & Edward	4035	£3.99	

QUANTITY	ITEM	CODE	PRICE	TOTAL
	Joining Tunnel Straight & Diesel	4499	£3.99	
	Conning Tower with Harold	4497	£3.99	
	Windmill with Trevor	4051	£3.99	
	Viaducts with Bill & Ben	4465	£3.99	
	Water Mill with Duck	4466	£3.99	
	Signal Siding with Toby	4467	£3.99	
	4 Piece Adventure Playset	4025	£12.99	
	6 Piece Adventure Playset	4026	£14.99	
			Plus postage & packing	£3.50
			TOTAL	£

PLEASE WRITE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Name _____

Address _____

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Make cheque payable to **Toys 4 You.**

Please allow 28 days for delivery

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ERTL®

Britt

JAMES'S JAPES!

Why did the elephants leave the circus?
They were tired of working for peanuts!

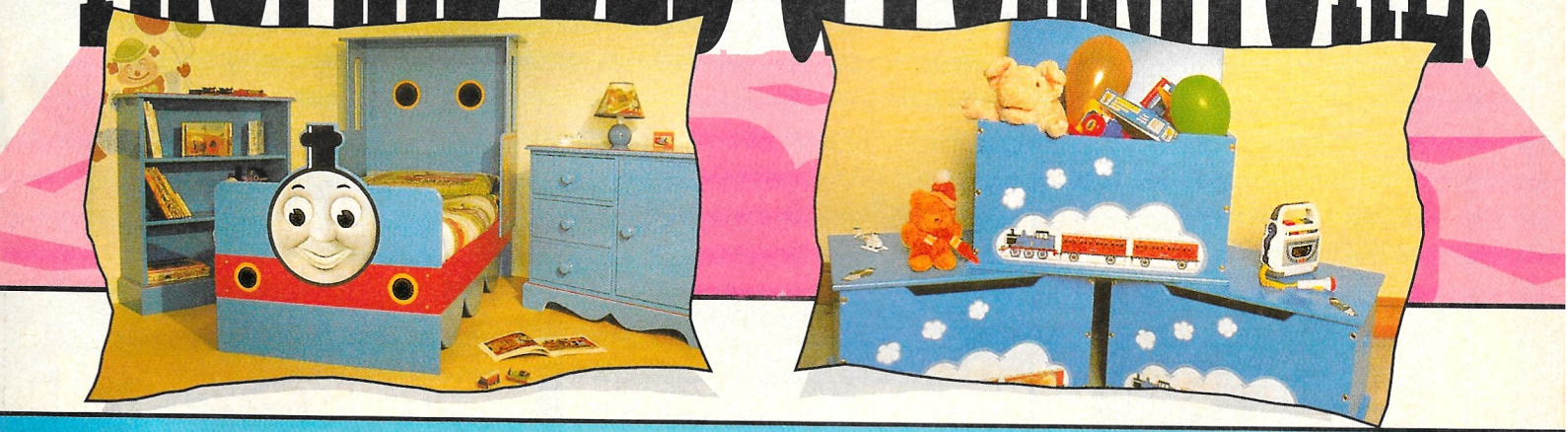
Why do cows wear bells?
Because their horns don't work!

What is bigger when it's upside down?
The number six (6)!

What do you call high-rise flats for pigs?
Styscrapers!

Have you got a favourite joke or a funny story? Why not write to James at the address shown on the letters page!

THOMAS BED & FURNITURE!



For further information on the Thomas the Tank Engine Bed, Bedhead and Toybox, plus the matching blue bedroom furniture please call: **Joshua Jones Ltd** 0258 858470 OR for a **FREE** colour brochure and price list please send a large stamped addressed envelope to: **Joshua Jones Ltd, IF Bailie Gate Ind. Est. Sturminster Marshall, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 4DB.**

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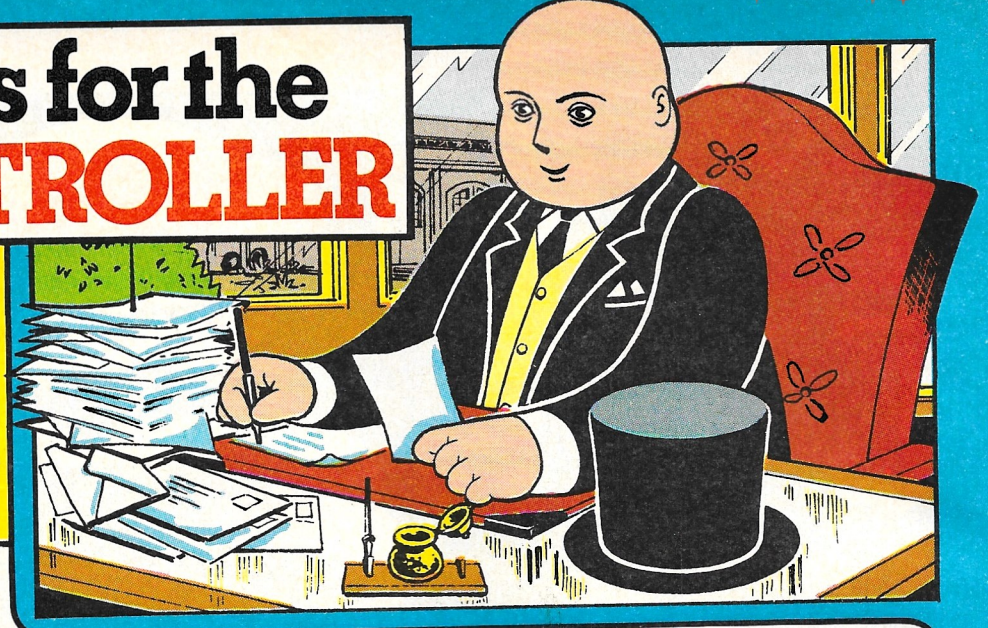
Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
I know **Thomas** and all the other engines belong to you, but do other friends like ***Terence the Tractor***, ***Harold the Helicopter*** and ***Bertie the Bus***, also, help you from time to time?

Love from **Andrew Harris**, aged 3.

Yes, they do! Terence the Tractor and Harold the Helicopter are particularly useful. Terence is often needed to clear dangerous objects from the line but Harold is Really Useful. He has saved many of his engine friends from very difficult and frightening situations.

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win some splendid **Thomas Pre-school** toys courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

TOO MUCH TROUBLE!

Dear Fat Controller,
I am a very big fan of you and your engines. Can you tell me when the Troublesome Trucks had their worst accident and why?

Love from **Tommy-Lee**, aged 3.

The worst accident I can remember is when Boco, the diesel engine, was working with the trucks at the Big Harbour. On that day, they were being very troublesome indeed. Eventually, two of them collided and collapsed. They had to be sent to the scrap yard!

TOBY'S COACH!

Dear Fat Controller,
Toby is a Really Useful Engine but why does he only take one coach?

Love from **James Williams**, aged 7.

I decided to have Toby pulling one carriage called Henrietta, because he was first brought to the Island of Sodor with her and they were already great friends. However, Toby does pull some heavy coal trucks on the quarry line!

BIRTHDAYS!

Special greetings to...
Andrew Benjamin Hall, Jamie Prosser, Matthew Cuerden, Trystan Harley, Russel Box, Nathan Jones, Brett Perry, Adam Beadle, Stephanie Maddalena, Daniel Franzen, Daniel Sait, Kristina Higgins, Nicholas Wilson, Tommy Drew, Nathan Watson, Christopher Dickey, Cameron John Stewart, John Dayle Blackett, Ben Deakins, Niki Ann Ellender, Earl Mills, Neil Cummins, Alexander Cottage, Thomas Martyn and belated greetings to Samantha and Richard Jones, Colin McLachlan and Alistair Little.

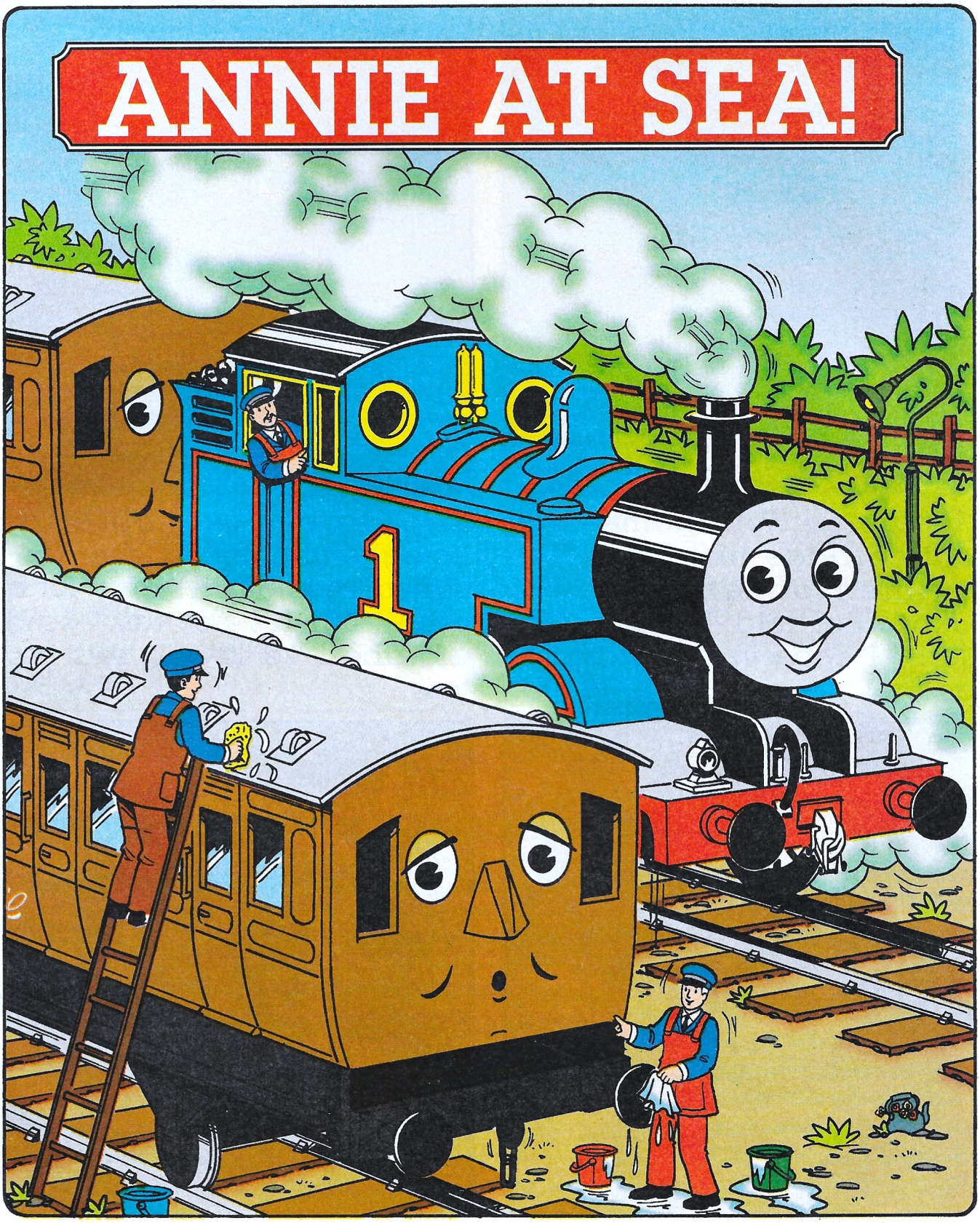
If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a post-card at least **nine weeks** in advance.

Yours,
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

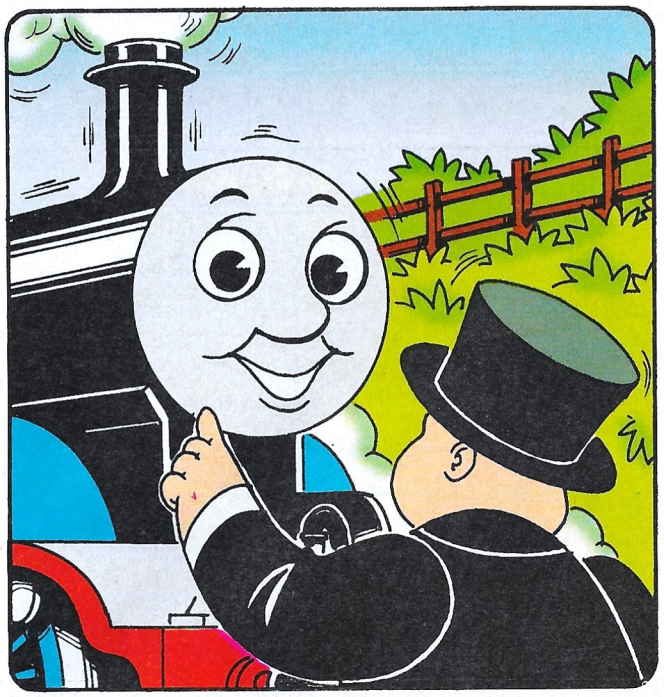
The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

ANNIE AT SEA!

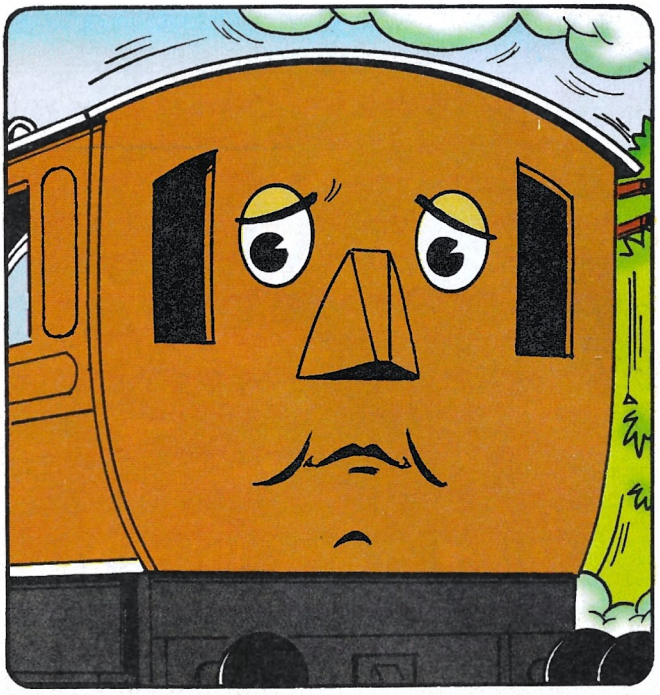


1. Usually, Thomas and his faithful carriages, Annie and Clarabel, worked very happily together. But one day, Annie was chosen to go to the mainland alone.

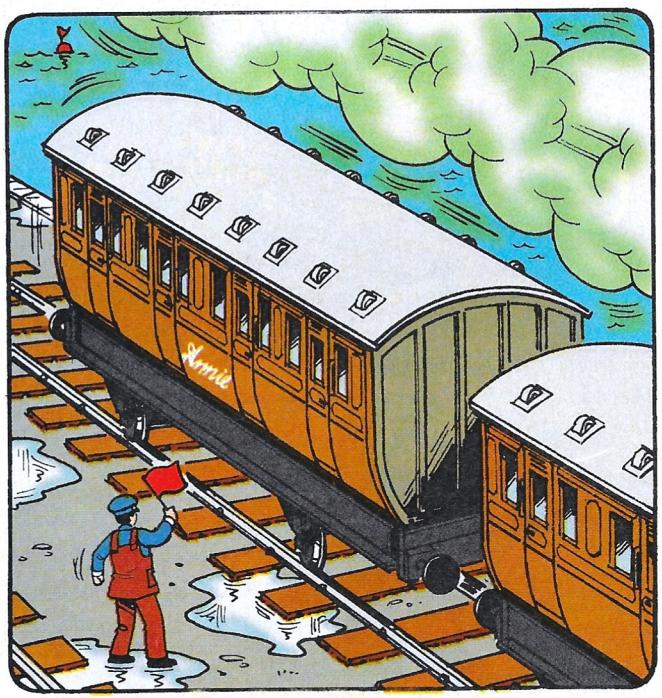
2. Clarabel was told to cope as best she could with Thomas's passengers while Annie was washed and polished, ready to appear in a special exhibition.



3. "There's not another fine old carriage like those two on the mainland," the Fat Controller told Thomas. "I'm sorry I can't spare Clarabel as well."

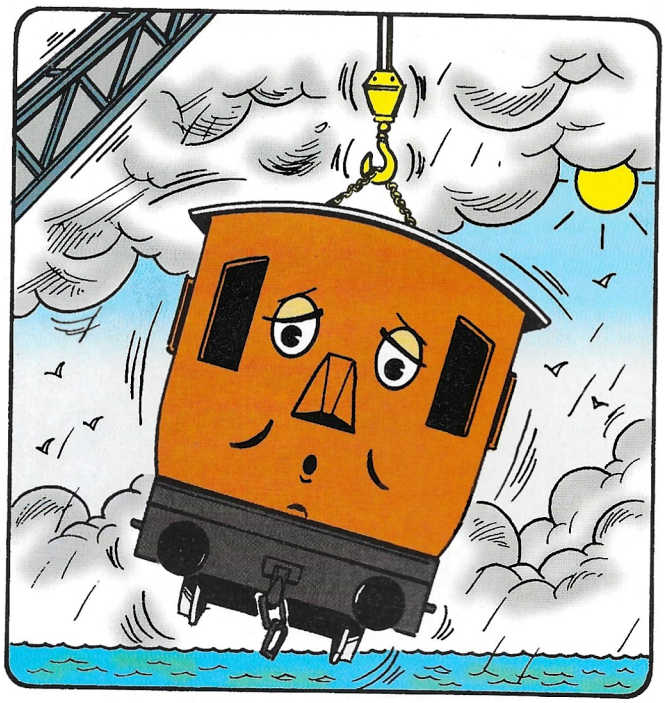


4. Clarabel was upset at being left behind. "Cheer up," called Thomas. "It's only for a day!" "But it's not fair!" said Clarabel. "I'd love a sea trip too!"

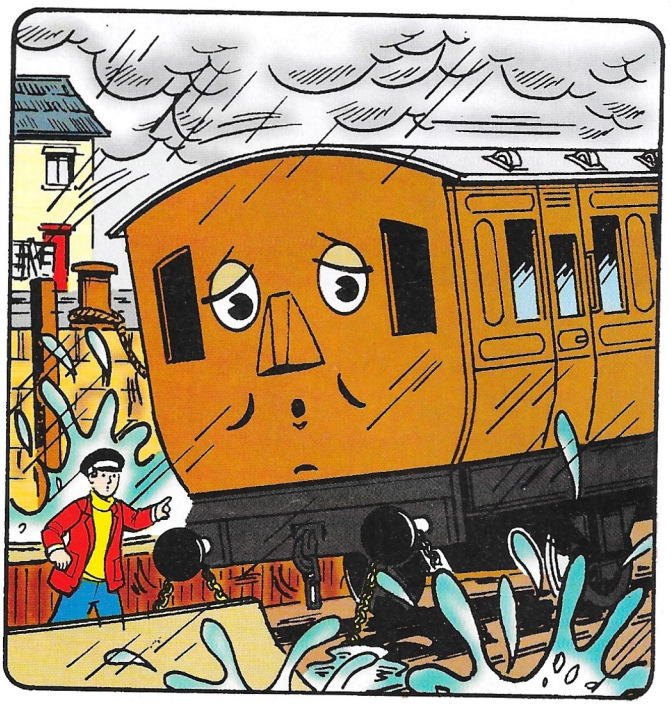


5. When the day came, Annie gleamed proudly. Coupled behind Clarabel, she was taken to the Big Harbour very early in the morning.

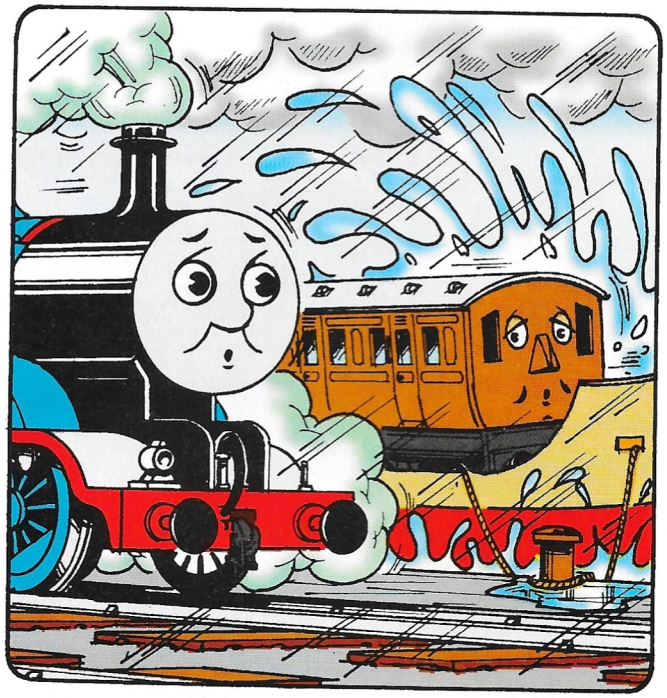
6. When Annie saw the boat waiting to ship her to the mainland, she was excited. "What a lovely day for the crossing!" she said. But Clarabel frowned.



7. Lifting Annie on board was a difficult task and had to be done with great care. By the time she was on deck, big dark clouds swept across the sky.

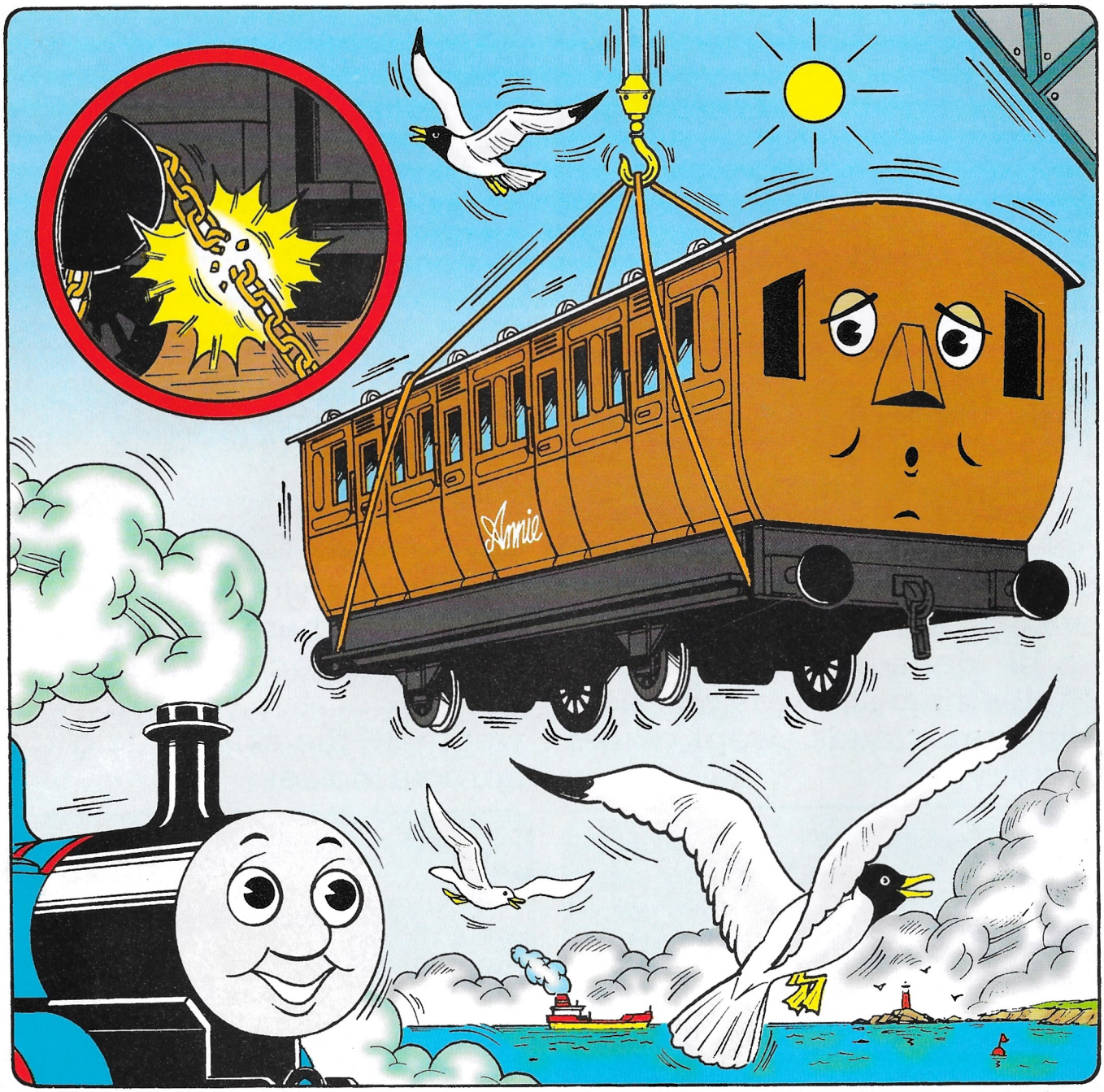


8. A severe storm blew up as if from nowhere and the boat began to rock wildly. "We can't go to sea in this weather!" the skipper told the harbourmaster.



9. Thomas and Clarabel watched in alarm as huge waves splashed right over Annie as the boat heaved. "Oh, help!" she groaned, soaking wet. "Take me off!"

10. But the sea was much too rough to unload Annie without her being damaged. "We'll have to wait until the storm is over!" the skipper told his crew.



11. Next moment, a giant wave hit the ship, causing one of Annie's securing chains to snap. Thomas and Clarabel stared in horror. "Oh, no! She'll plunge into the sea!" Clarabel cried. "Peep! Peep! Hold on, Annie!" called Thomas. Luckily, the crew managed to tie Annie safely again. At last, the storm passed.

12. It was too late now for Annie to go to the exhibition. Feeling very wobbly on her wheels, she was lifted back on to the quayside while the Harbour Stationmaster rang the Fat Controller. "I'm sorry I was jealous, Annie," said Clarabel. "Thank goodness you're safe!" "That's what matters!" agreed Thomas.

THE END!

In our next issue: The Strong Engine!